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A Message From the Dean

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Despite the awful tragedy of September 11, 2001, anthrax threats to homeland security, Osama bin Laden, the down turn in the economy, Enron, WorldCom, and ImClone, it is



nice to be in the position of reporting some very positive news: the School had a remarkably successful year.

We did exceptionally well in the

State budget signed into law by the Governor in late June, ending up with an appropriation that was 5% above the amount appropriated in July 2001. Few other institutions of higher learning in the State were so blessed and I thank the Governor and General Assembly for their support and wonderful recognition of the importance of the School to Pennsylvania, especially to Pennsylvania agriculture. Now, we must do all we can to fulfill the expectations that accompany the State's support; this includes advancing our programs in Global Information System mapping of the livestock and poultry industries in the Commonwealth, food safety, biosecurity, infectious disease research, and public health.

The School was also successful with its application for capital support from the National Center for Research Resources at NIH and has been awarded nearly \$2 million towards the cost of the vivarium in the new Teaching and Research building. As a result of this infusion of funds, the School now has \$39,850,000 in gifts and pledges towards the \$48 million cost of the Teaching and Research Building; this is outstanding. It reaches a milestone that has gained the President's and Provost's approval to start the process of selecting an architect and commencing schematic design. This seems to me to be the fun part of the whole project. It will be orchestrated by a faculty Building Committee chaired by Dr. R. O. Davies. With the architect, the Committee must now come up with a design that is both functional and beautiful.

In terms of our fund-raising, this past year was a banner year. We set another record for

new gifts and pledges with \$13.4 million raised by June 30, 2002. In cash receipts, we had our second best year ever at \$8.1 million. We were especially fortunate to attract significant new support for the Teaching and Research Building, securing \$7.5 million in new commitments from individuals and private foundations. I am also very pleased to share with you that we raised more than \$1 million in new current use and endowed scholarship support and thank the many donors who made these generous contributions to the School.

We were blessed with a beautiful day on June 29th for the dedication of the Scott Equine Sports Medicine Building at New Bolton Center. This is a magnificent addition of which our benefactors, the late Almira and Hardie Scott, would be proud. The building also holds some of the most distinguished names in horse racing and we are grateful for their great generosity to the School. In the evening, the School celebrated the 50th anniversary of New Bolton Center with a dinner followed by an excellent new video, *On Any Given Day*, that depicts "a day in the life of New Bolton Center."

At the close of the evening I was very happy to have Betty Moran join me to make the announcement that Dr. Virginia Reef has been appointed to a newly endowed chair, The Lila Griswold and Mark Whittier Allam Chair in Medicine at New Bolton Center. Some 20 years ago, Betty gave the School funds that were invested and grew. Now they permit us to establish the new Chair. The appointment is especially fitting for Ginny is a world renowned equine cardiologist and Betty Moran has had an abiding interest in the topic, giving the funds to establish not only the original heart station in 1963, but the cardiology suite in the Moran Family Wing of the new Scott Building.

In research, the School also had an outstanding year. To mention a few of the faculty's many accomplishments: Dr. Ralph Brinster's work on male germ cell transplantation was reviewed in June in *Science* and was featured on the cover of this edition. Dr. Hans Scholer's work published in *Genes and Development*, showing why cloning in animals is so unpredictable received world wide publicity, as did Dr. Ina Dobrinski's recent paper in *Nature* on growing testicular tissue from pigs and goats on the back of immuno-compromised mice. Drs. James Lok and Edward Pearce received a

\$3 million grant from the Ellison Foundation for studying gene manipulation in nematode parasites, and Dr. Narayan Avadhani received a \$500,000 grant from NIH to purchase state-of-the-art equipment for proteomics.

Finally, I am very pleased to share with you that we are at last making progress in revising the curriculum and have started phasing in the revisions this September for the freshman class. The number of hours students sit in class, passively listening to lectures in the first year is reduced. With the time made available, students have new opportunities for supervised training in the clinics to better understand the relevance of the basic sciences to clinical medicine. Changes with similar objectives will be phased into the second and third year curricula as the program evolves.

Now we have the challenge of doing as well in this new academic year.

Alan M. Kelly

The Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine

Annual SCAVMA Auction

The annual Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association (SCAVMA) Auction will be held on Friday, December 6, 2002 in the E.R. Marookian, V.M.D. Auditorium at the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. The event begins with a silent auction at 3:00 p.m., followed by the live auction at 5:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to support the auction!

The annual SCAVMA auction is a popular event for the entire School community. Proceeds from the silent auction help to fund student travel expenses to the annual National Student AVMA Symposium. Proceeds from the live auction help to fund SCAVMA events and the new SCAVMA Scholarship Program.

The mission of SCAVMA is to increase the quality of veterinary student life through educational, social and cultural extracurricular activities. For more information on the auction or to donate auction items, contact Ian J. Driben, V'05, Auction Co-Chairperson, via e-mail at <driben@mail.vet.upenn.edu>.